

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF THE LATHROP COMMUNITY, NORTHAMPTON

COUNCIL MEETING

March 2, 2016

Carol Neubert called the meeting to order noting the controversial nature of some agenda items, and asking the Council to be thoughtful during the Moment of Silence about how to best minimize this.

Minutes The minutes of the Association meeting of February 3, 2016 were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report Bev Bowman thanked the program committee for using the reimbursement form, which makes her task much easier. She read a note from the family of Donald Sullivan thanking us for the \$50 contribution to Northampton Dollars for Scholars made by the Association to honor him. There were expenditures of \$384.67 in February, leaving a balance of \$4127.92. CD value is \$5009.83. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Management Reports Thom Wright presented a splendid occupancy report: overall, the percentage of units on both campuses occupied or under deposit is 91.1%, well over the occupancy rate budgeted for in 2016. The rate for Northampton is 98.7%. He summarized the Planning Task Force progress, which currently involves the developing financial models for various proposals, with assistance from Kendal. Feedback on design concepts is now being collected and there will be a report to the community in April.

Mike Strycharz anticipates more refurbishments this year in Easthampton rather than here. Number 8 Butternut is being refurbished as a demonstration unit, which also might be used to house prospectives overnight. He said that Marilyn Guzik's job continues to evolve. She is currently working on work orders and the transportation network, both of which will be on line. Carol interjected an appreciation for the Worxhub workshop Marilyn recently presented. Cynthia Nyary asked if there has been feedback on the recently distributed transportation fee memo; Mike replied that feedback has been verbal, and basically positive. The fee changes in the memo will become active in 30 days, when Marilyn will book all transportation requests. This will happen through Worxhub by April at the latest.

Deb Peavey announced a full music calendar for March, that the Wellness committee is now organized and that she is working on improving the welcome process.

Rob Olmsted is keen on the joint-campus fitness committee, which is up and running. He noted the upcoming visit of Dr. Jeffrey Zesinger, medical director of the Cooley Dickinson palliative care department to the Gowande groups he has been conducting on each campus. He is also working on education about the call system, i.e., what response is to be expected from an emergency call.

Updates from Carol

The picture hangars funded by the Association have arrived and are already in use. She suggested that a trip to the lower level to see the work of Mike Stevens and others is worthwhile.

A community garden committee has been formed, and at Carol's request, was approved by the Council. The committee has requested Association support in the form of a load of manure, which was approved in principle.

Carol suggested the formation of a kitchen committee, but some members really like the all-pitch-in modus operandi currently in use. No consensus was reached on the matter.

Carol also noted that the land subcommittee has eight not 21 subcommittees, as had previously been reported.

She noted that advertising with tear-off telephone numbers on the bulletin board are anonymous and essentially are solicitation. In future, these advertisers will pay a \$75 fee to be vetted before they post their advertising.

Communication

Carol gave an update on the Lathrop Website. The aim is to have two weeks of events on the front page. Wellness matters and information on the Master Plan are in the offing. One may send information on the Website to Kathy Maloney. The Website costs us \$23.40 per year.

Posting space in the Meeting House Carol described the posting space as overcrowded and inefficient, and said she has received some good ideas for improving the situation. The best idea appears to be a big bulletin board between the entry to the sitting room and Sarah's office door, with three large spaces designated for Lathrop events, valley events and general information. We could then fill the holes in the entry and mailroom walls and paint, surely an improvement. She requested feedback on this idea and also proposed an ad hoc committee to execute it. Dave Morrissey asked who would monitor this space, and Carol replied that Sarah would take that on.

Michael Schwartz, in response to a concern that LIR use needed to be included, suggested a special space in the Valley Events panel be reserved for LIR. The Council was in consensus that a bulletin board was a good idea. Michael wondered if a Bulletin Board in the sitting room might be a change that needed to be referred to lane reps for consultation with residents. Carol thought that we could get feedback in the next several weeks, but was concerned that there is no Council meeting in which to act on the matter again until June. Michael saw no bar to consideration of the matter at the April Association meeting.

Carol reintroduced the communication chart, presented at a previous meeting, describing it as an effort to keep track of ways we get information out to residents. Judy Buhner approved of the information on the website, and suggested that emergencies might be a different color (red is the proposed color). Transportation requests, handled under

Worxhub, should also have a phone number publicized for those without computers. Carol agreed that we should keep this chart, and keep it up to date.

Use of the meeting house has become a burning issue as activities there have burgeoned in the last few months. Carol noted that we can do a much better scheduling job, and described a proposed request form for use of meeting house spaces. It proposes a three step procedure: 1) the request for space 2) vetted by Sarah and 3) a decision by the program committee. A lively discussion ensued, centering around whether program committee involvement was necessary or desirable, or whether scheduling space could be handled more than adequately by Sarah. The Council recognized that scheduling and programming are two different functions, which, however, require coordination. Thom suggested that new initiatives might need scrutiny by the program committee. There was also a suggestion that activities about which there is an issue might go through the three-step process.

The Council turned to the question of use of meeting house space by individuals. Carol suggested that individual use might be permitted on condition that group need will always supersede if there is a conflict, and that approval is needed for any such use. Cynthia Nyary felt that we are so crowded for space that individual use is precluded, and at the moment feels inappropriate. Carol thought that we could use the new form, and if so, can say we are too crowded. Bev Bowman, as a weaver who needs space for equipment, says that residents with special interests are faced with a dilemma. Historically, weaving has been accommodated in the meeting house, but she would hesitate to request space now. Thom suggested that individuals with special space needs might, for now, be taken care of in the blue house, and asked Mike to investigate space for this purpose there.

Dave Morrissey asked if there was a policy on meeting house use by outside groups. He was informed that there is a priority for groups which have resident involvement, e.g., LIR.

Finally, Carol raised the issue of drying laundry out of doors. The energy conservation tips in the Resident Handbook suggest laundering in cold water, and minimizing the use of dryers. She has received complaints about using drying racks on patios, draping sheets on bushes, etc. It is also an issue with the Marketing department. Apparently, there was a flap about this in the past, but the issue was never fully resolved. After considerable weighing of pros and cons, the Council achieved consensus on the matter as follows: The patio is private space and can be used for non-permanent drying racks. Residents should use discretion about what and where they hang laundry, talking with neighbors and taking into consideration community preferences. Use of the front porch is proscribed. This consensus was not considered a final solution, and an ongoing conversation can be expected. Carol noted that it seems unfair to people moving in not to make clear what the policy is.

Lane Reports

Michael Schwartz, for Dogwood, reported that the lamp post at the corner of Dogwood Lane and Shallowbrook Drive is not functioning.

Bob Comerford, for Hawthorn, said that several people had mentioned missing the services around health insurance performed by Kevin, our former nurse, and asked if she could be contacted for help on a consultative basis for a fee. Rob explained the services she performed, but said he did not have contact information for her. Bob also reported a lane meeting which discussed the responsibility of the lane rep, and others, in the case of illness of a resident. Residents at that meeting thought it was a complicated and difficult issue, as assistance could range across a variety of ways, depending on patients' preferences, and in view of some reluctance to ask for help

Joan Davis, Hawthorn, noted that clapboards in the entrance area which receive no rain are very dirty, and asked if there were plans to clean those campuswide. Mike Strycharz took note of the situation.

Bill Wallace, for Goldenchain, felt that the recent Master Plan update was insufficiently detailed. Bob Comerford concurred, saying that he had been pressing for a meeting of full disclosure about our financial situation and how we expect to fund the changes proposed in the Master Plan.

Judy Buhner, for Aspen, reported that resident Jeanne Ammon had fallen in the meeting house over the weekend and broken her hip. Judy wanted to mention that at the time Jeanne had her accident, she was *wearing her pendant, and it worked*. A cautionary tale for everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Davis, Secretary